

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3647

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1169

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB GE

SUBJECT: US/GDR NEGOTIATIONS: HUMANITARIAN CASES-MEISSNER

REFS: A) STATE 150101; B) BERLIN 1890 (1973)

1. MISSION AND USCOB OFFICERS HAD CONSIDERABLE CONTACT WITH MEISSNER LAST FALL WHEN INVESTIGATING INCIDENT AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE REPORTED REF B. FROM THAT INVESTIGATION IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT HERS IS LEGITIMATE FIANCER CASE IN SENSE THAT SHE HAD NON-MERCENARY MOTIVE IN SEEKING TO GET GDR CITIZEN OUT OF EAST BERLIN. MEISSNER WAS, HOWEVER, EMPLOYED WITH EES UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE INCIDENT AND THUS IS FORMER MEMBER OF U. S. FORCES. SHE ENLISTED TOW SOLDIERS (SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED TO FRG) TO ASSIST HER ESCAPE PLAN BY PROVIDING U.S. ARMY UNIFORM AND PATCHES AND INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO WEAR UNIFORM AND BEHAVE AT CHECKPOINT. ONE SOLDIER AND WIFE WENT TO EAST BERLIN WITH MEISSNER TO HAVE DINNER WITH FIANCER BEFORE ESCAPE ATTEMPT. BECAUSE CASE INVOLVES SENSITIVE ELEMENT OF EFFORT TO EXFILTRATE GDR CITIZEN CONTRARY TO GDR LAWS BY MEMBERS OF U.S. FORCES, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IF IT IS RAISED WITH GDR IN CONTEXT OF HUMANITARIAN CASES TO BE DISCUSSED

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ON FRINGE OF TALKS ON OPENING RELATIONS IT BE DONE MOST CAREFULLY.

WE WOULD BE CONCERNED THAT DISCUSSION COULD QUICKLY LEAD INTO GDR
EFFORT TO
INTRODUCE SUBJECT OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF MEMBERS OF FORCES TO
GDR LAWS AND CONTROLS WHILE IN EAST BERLIN AND PERHAPS ALSO TO
GENERAL REVIEW OF U.S. ACCESS RIGHTS.

2. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY,
THEREFORE, NOT THAT WE ARE AWARE OF CASE, AND PROMISE THAT WE WILL
DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP MEISSNER AND HER FIANCE WITHOUT MAKING
COMMITMENT TO SEEK EXIT VISA BEFORE HE RELEASED FROM JAIL.

3. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, WE WILL AWAIT FURTHER DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE CONTACTING MEISSNER AGAIN.KLEIN

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